



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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13 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

Shelepin has left Hanoi, but no communiqué on the visit has yet been released.

The anti-Chinese thrust of the Shelepin mission became increasingly apparent as the visit progressed. This was particularly noticeable in Shelepin's stress on the overriding need for bloc unity and "joint practical steps" to support Hanoi. The North Vietnamese leaders, however, remained extremely cautious in offering any support for Moscow's efforts to discredit Peking.

Speeches out of Hanoi during the past week also betrayed a marked divergence between the Soviets and the North Vietnamese in their treatment of the US peace initiative. The North Vietnamese repeatedly denounced US diplomatic efforts as "deceitful and perfidious trickery," but Shelepin pointedly avoided this theme.

In addition, reports from the Soviet news agency, TASS, have toned down the more abrasive comments from Hanoi on recent US moves, and Moscow has not yet replayed the vituperative speech which Pham Van Dong made last Saturday.

The subject of increased Soviet military assistance was given only cursory public attention during the visit. Shelepin merely noted that Soviet - North Vietnamese cooperation in strengthening the defense potential of North Vietnam "continues to develop."

Peking has still not commented directly on the Soviet mission.

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2. North Vietnam

3. Sino-Soviet Reaction. Communist reaction to President Johnson's State of the Union address has been limited so far to preliminary press comments. Normally it takes two or three days before the more authoritative responses come in.

The Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, said the world has been looking for evidence that the US is ready to take real steps to stop its "armed aggression," but the "decisive thing in the message turned out to be an assertion that Americans do not intend to leave Vietnam." Izvestia added that it is obvious that the US intends to continue the war in order to impose its will on the Vietnamese people.

In the initial reaction from Peking, the Chinese radio asserted that the speech "exposed" the US peace campaign "as a smokescreen to cover its war escalation." The broadcast also said that President Johnson "blatantly flung war threats" at the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

There has been no response yet from Hanoi.

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4. Communist China

The two top party leaders, Mao Tse-tung and Liu Shao-chi, have not shown up in public since late November. This is particularly unusual in Liu's case. As chief of state, he normally makes many ceremonial appearances. Both leaders may be on extended vacations, but whatever the explanation, it does appear that their burden of years is slowing them down.

5. India

Congress Party leaders are to begin meeting tomorrow in an effort to agree on a new prime minister. Most leaders want an early decision without an open contest. But the lack of an obvious choice may frustrate these hopes. 50X1

Defense Minister Chavan and former Finance Minister Morarji Desai seem both to be actively seeking the job. 50X1

6. Indonesia

Tensions produced by the continuing power struggle seem to have been stepped up a notch or two since the weekend. Army-inspired student demonstrations, protesting Sukarno's economic policies, have come increasingly close to attacking Sukarno directly. Reacting to his expulsion of US newsmen on Tuesday, they demanded yesterday that Peking's news agency also be expelled.

Sukarno, who has recently shown some signs of increased confidence, is reported to be deeply angered by the demonstrations and has ordered the army to end them. Army leaders are said to be considering "postponing" them.

7. Rhodesia

Prime Minister Wilson seems to have come out of the Commonwealth Conference on Rhodesia in a better position than his advisers had expected. He was subjected to the inevitable African pressure for quicker and more decisive action against the Smith regime. But he apparently avoided major concessions and did emerge with at least tacit backing for his policies by most of the African participants.

The final communiqué states that another conference will be held no later than July if Smith is still in power by that time. Although some members reserved the right to call for further United Nations action sooner, even tentative agreement on a July deadline is a considerable concession by the African nationalists.

The British cabinet officer in charge of Commonwealth affairs revealed today that he will go to Salisbury tomorrow for talks with the beleaguered British governor in Rhodesia. He may also see Smith.

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8. Common Market

Next week's council meeting in Luxembourg will be the first since last June with the French participating. The five other members have no clear idea of what Paris intends to propose, but all are prepared to resist a French effort to change the basic principles of the organization.

Any formula fuzzing over the differences with the French would be exceedingly difficult to negotiate. It might be attempted, however, if the French appear conciliatory. Otherwise, the five are likely to consider how they can proceed without France.

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9. Dominican Republic

There is a cautious feeling today in Santo Domingo that the latest crisis may be on the way toward a settlement. Garcia Godoy seems to have made some progress in the last two days in moving the two top former rebel leaders toward a graceful departure from the country. The main problem has been to give Caa-mano some kind of "guarantee" that the remaining ex-rebels will not suffer after their leaders' departure.

Once the two are out, the chances of voluntary departure by the three regular military chiefs will be fairly good.

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It will not be easy to accomplish all this, however. Any rash move on either side--or by Garcia Godoy himself--could get the situation off the track again.

10. Turkey

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